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his feelings for women who, he feels, abandon him. Big-hearted, curious teens will empathize with Jabair and the plight of the Rohingya. **VERDICT** Recommended to all libraries serving immigrant populations and looking for voices unheard, stories under-reported, and redemption against all odds. Pair with “Lament for Syria” by Amineh Abou Kerech.—*Sara Lissa Paulson, City-Ass-School High School, New York City*

MAC, Carrie. Wildfire. 272p. Random. Jan. 2020. Tr \$17.99. ISBN 9780399556296.

Gr 9 Up—Annie and Pete share a wealth of childhood memories, membership in the “Dead Mom Club,” and a penchant for dangerous adventure. It was just the two of them for so long that it wasn’t until Pete started dating someone else that Annie realized she loves him. When Annie becomes frozen by grief following the death of her grandmother, Pete convinces her to get out of her rut by hiking with him through the Washington forests they both love. A series of disasters and poor choices results in the two of them lost in the woods, with Pete horribly injured and unable to walk, while wildfires loom ever closer. Annie’s nonlinear narration, constantly shifting between the events of the doomed hike and memories of their life together, effectively reveals the shared history that has made her friendship with Pete so vital to both of them. Her grief over the loss of both her troubled mother and her devoted grandmother, and the pain of her unrequited love for her best friend, are explored with depth and honesty. As a character, Annie is both complex and highly likable: even when overwhelmed by emotion, she constantly thinks about how her actions will impact the people she cares about. For a novel so introspective, the pace is remarkably quick, in large part due to the constant peril Annie and Pete face. As Annie slowly realizes that this crisis is not like all their other near escapes, readers are likely to experience similar feelings of dread and heartbreak. Recommend to fans of John Green, Adam Silvera, or Sarah Dessen. **VERDICT** Advise readers to have tissues on hand for this riveting tale of friendship, grief, and survival.—*Elizabeth Lovsin, Deerfield Public Library, IL*

MITCHELL, Sandra. All the Things We Do in the Dark. 304p. HarperTeen. Oct. 2019. Tr \$17.99. ISBN 9780062852595.

Gr 9 Up—In Mitchell’s latest teen thriller, secrets don’t stay buried for long, and the things we do in the dark aren’t hidden forever. For years, Ava has struggled with the aftereffects of being sexually assaulted, including a scar on her face that reminds her of it daily. When Ava unexpectedly stumbles upon a secret no one was meant to find in the woods, she has to decide what to do. A part of her knows the right thing is to tell

an adult or the police, but the burdens of her own past beg her to keep the secret. An outstanding thriller concept and mystery plot will grab readers who love writing that is dark and emotional, and Ava’s internal struggles are authentic and heartfelt. This haunting and mysterious story will keep readers guessing until the final chapters.

VERDICT Teens who enjoyed Courtney Summers’s *Sadie* or Kathleen Glasgow’s *Girl in Pieces* will be invested. A standout choice for high school libraries where these titles circulate well.—*Elizabeth Pelayo, St. Charles East High School, IL*

SILVERA, Adam. Infinity Son. 368p. (Infinity Cycle: Bk. 1). HarperTeen. Jan. 2020. Tr \$18.99. ISBN 9780062457820. **POP**

Gr 9 Up—In a departure from contemporary fiction, Silvera has created an exciting fantasy series opener about two very different Latinx twin brothers. Brighton, vlogger and superhero fan, hopes he’ll evince Celestial powers on his 18th birthday. His queer, fantasy-loving brother Emil prays they don’t materialize in him. In this Bronx setting, where phoenixes are reborn and hydra and ghosts exist, Celestial Spell Walker heroes battle evil alchemist Blood Casters. Both sides include a handful of young people with unique magical abilities. Villainous Sectors steal blood from Celestials to recreate their power. Enforcers hunt down both Sectors and Blood Casters. Spell Walkers aren’t universally loved and are being persecuted, particularly by presidential nominee Senator Irons. He believes Mari-belle, a Spell Walker, is responsible for the deaths of his wife and son. In a twist on the Chosen One trope, it’s Emil’s powers, not Brighton’s, that manifest, but they’re Sector powers, not Celestial. Brighton is jealous and vows to prove himself worthy, too. Bloodthirsty Luna, the Blood Casters’ leader, seeks legendary Reaper’s Blood to try to achieve immortality, as the Spell Walkers try to stop her. Despite the book’s many characters, it’s easy to keep everyone straight. Four characters narrate different chapters, allowing readers access to multiple points of view. **VERDICT** Fans of Cassandra Clare, Mackenzie Lee’s *Loki*, Brandon Sanderson’s *Steelheart*, Kiersten White’s *Slayer* and Marissa Meyer’s “Renegades” series will love this magical book that embodies it all: romance, heartbreak, deceit, shifting loyalties, revenge, power struggles, violence, and complicated origin stories.—*Sharon Rawlins, New Jersey State Library, Trenton*

STOLARZ, Laurie Faria. Jane Anonymous. 320p. Wednesday Bks. Jan. 2020. Tr \$17.99. ISBN 9781250303707.

Gr 10 Up—Seventeen-year-old “Jane” was popping into work for a last-minute gift when she was abducted. Held in captivity

for seven months, Jane was fed through a cat door, instructed to bathe and keep her room clean, and given stars for good behavior. Then Jane met and developed a deeply emotional attachment to fellow captive Mason, who visited while sneaking through the air ducts. But when Jane finally escaped and sent the police back after Mason, he was nowhere to be found. Jane is back home with her family now, but she left part of herself behind. As she works to readjust to life outside of confinement, difficult memories begin to surface, and Jane isn’t sure she wants to know the truth. Alternating between events Then and Now—during captivity and the present—Jane tells her story as an attempt at therapy. The teen’s struggle is at the center of the plot and includes believable coping mechanisms, realistic depictions of panic attacks, and detailed descriptions of her confinement, but the work does touch on the suffering of side characters as well. Knowing from the beginning that she survives her ordeal allows readers to focus on the details of Jane’s captivity and recovery. Though this close examination may lead some readers to decipher the work’s conclusion beforehand, the ending is no less compelling because of it. **VERDICT** A story about lingering trauma, loss, and the journey toward healing, this gripping crime novel could be a documentary from the Investigation Discovery channel. A must-read.—*Maggie Mason Smith, Clemson University, SC*

WARD, Kaitlin. Lie to Me. 256p. Scholastic. Jan. 2020. pap. \$10.99. ISBN 9781338538106.

Gr 9 Up—Amelia has almost no memory of the fall that nearly killed her. What started as plans to meet with her best friend Skylar at her favorite spot along the river ended with her waking up in the hospital—bruised, concussed, and with a broken wrist. She only has a vague recollection of laughter, the feeling of being pushed, and the loss of her favorite necklace. Two other girls from the community have also gone missing and were found dead. It’s not clear whether Amelia’s accident is related, but she’s sure whoever did it also meant to kill her. Amelia takes it upon herself to track down the murderer, starting with crafting a list of questions and suspicious people. Liam, her brother’s soccer teammate and sworn enemy, shows interest in her and her quest, and wants to help. Is the killer her creepy neighbor, new boyfriend, or best friend? Ward’s newest novel contains many themes that may appeal to a variety of readers—equal parts mystery and suspense, an exploration of sexuality, and dark romance. The plotline, while intriguing at times, is full of stilted dialogue. All loose ends are wrapped up too quickly in the final chapter. **VERDICT** This might do well in a larger collection where similar titles are popular.—*Alicia Kalan, The Northwest School, Seattle*

depth as a teen must face her circumstances and make decisions as an independent adult. Alcohol use and sexual activity make this most suitable for older teens.—*Susan Riley, Mamaroneck Public Library, NY*

GRAY, Mila. *Watch Over Me.* 352p. S. & S./Simon Pulse. Dec. 2019. Tr \$18.99. ISBN 9781534442818.

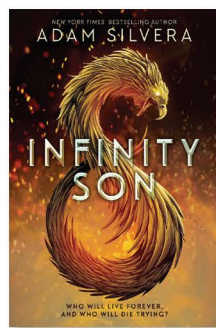
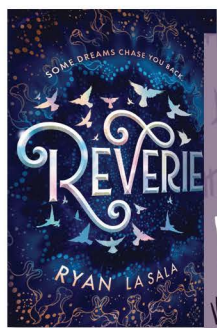
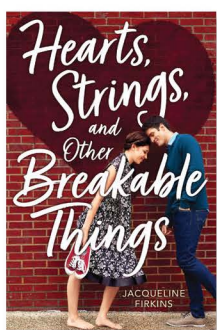
Gr 10 Up—Zoey is almost 19, but her life is on hold because she has to help her mother care for her younger siblings. Her father, a former cop, is in jail for assaulting her mother. Zoey testified against him and lives in fear that he will get out and find where they live. When their apartment and car are set on fire, Zoey learns that he has been released, but there is no definitive proof that he set the fire. Zoey's older brother Will

and increased Sarah's fear that fighting monsters may just turn her into one. But there is no time for recovery now that rumors of a powerful germ weapon being developed in the Congo have reached Berlin. Posing as German military intelligence, Jeremy and Sarah set off on a race across Africa to beat the S.S. from retrieving the disease samples from German missionaries. Accompanying them is Clementine, a brilliant and acerbic half-German, half-Senegalese maid with a hidden agenda. In the Congo, people speak of a White Devil that travels through the jungle and spreads a fatal disease called "the bleeding," which missionaries claim they are trying to treat. Sarah gradually makes the agonizing realization that she (still) can trust no one—and that the Nazis are far from the

★ **LA SALA, Ryan.** *Reverie.* 416p. Sourcebooks/Fire. Dec. 2019. Tr \$17.99. ISBN 9781492682660.

Gr 9 Up—La Sala's debut novel captures the magical, enthralling, and sometimes unsettling feelings that can come when our dreamworlds consume us. The story opens after a strange "accident" that leaves Kane Montgomery nearly dead and with no memories of the previous weeks. Kane quickly discovers, however, that nothing that has happened to him was an accident at all, and that reality is much more complicated than most people could fathom. As people's fantasies begin to bend reality in ways that threaten to destroy Kane's loved ones, it is up to him and the Others—a group of friends with extraordinary powers—to unravel these warped realities and save the world as they know it. This outstanding debut novel will light readers' imaginations on fire. La Sala's ability to create not just one fantasy world, but many smaller ones within it, is impressive. In these worlds, or reveries, La Sala cleverly weaves together characters' deepest desires and fears with eccentric and sometimes absurd elements that perfectly capture the way it feels to dream. These worlds would be nothing, of course, without a strong cast of dynamic characters to navigate them. From teen heroes to the evil sorceress, each character in the novel exudes both vulnerability and immense power.

VERDICT Imaginative, bold, and full of queer representation, this is a must-purchase for YA collections.—*Lauren Hathaway, University of British Columbia*



and his best friend Tristan come to the rescue, moving the family to California within walking distance of the beach. Will is leaving for a Marine deployment, but Tristan promises his friend to look out for the family. Tristan is older and has been a bit of a player in the past, but he and Zoey have instant chemistry that makes him want to change his ways. Readers see Tristan and Zoey grow closer and fall in love from each of their perspectives in alternating chapters. Meanwhile, however, the threat of Zoey's father grows greater. **VERDICT** While clichéd and predictable, the action never lets up and the romance is hot and heavy. Recommended where the author's other books are popular.—*Laura Gardner, Dartmouth Middle School, MA*

KILLEEN, Matt. *Devil Darling Spy.* 480p. Viking. Jan. 2020. Tr \$18.99. ISBN 9780451479259.

Gr 10 Up—In the even-more-gripping sequel to *Orphan Monster Spy*, it's 1940 and 16-year-old Jewish orphan Sarah Goldstein is living undercover in Berlin as the "niece" of high-society fixer Helmut Haller, the alias of British spy Jeremy Floyd. Jeremy and Sarah are still reeling from the aftermath of the previous book's events, which left them both with PTSD

only monsters out there. This installment retains the breakneck pace, rich imagery, and psychological nuance of the first book, while upping the stakes and increasing the moral complexity that confronts Sarah. The book's historical setting and subject matter—atrocities perpetuated by European colonialists in Africa leading up to and during World War II—are both well handled and rarely depicted in YA, making this a strong purchase for high school collections. While the Ebola germ weapon is fictional, broader observations about colonial-era treatment of African populations and specific references to torture and genocide in the Belgian Congo and German Namibia are based in historical fact, and described in a lengthy author's note. African characters are depicted as individuals with their own histories and goals rather than as mere objects of European brutality. The German language is heavily used and the complex plot demands some background knowledge about the war from readers, as well as a familiarity with the events of the first book. **VERDICT** This smart, chilling page-turner of a spy thriller set in central Africa will have strong cross-over appeal to adult audiences. A first purchase.—*Elizabeth Giles, Lubuto Library Partners, Zambia*

LASKIN, Pamela L. *Why No Goodbye?* 180p. Leapfrog Pr. Nov. 2019. pap. \$13. ISBN 9781948585064.

Gr 10 Up—This poignant, timely, and slim novel-in-verse with mature themes and visceral suffering recounts the story of Jabair, a teenage Rohingya middle child in Myanmar. He is left behind, first by his father, who he is told is dead, and then by his mother and three younger siblings. He is angry, channeling it through questioning and cursing his mother in letters (with some footnotes that simply read: "Burmese profanity") written during literacy classes with Ha Jia, who works with the internally displaced in Myanmar. Replying to a letter from his mother about his tearful little sister Amana who misses him, he pleads: "Do not tell me this./It opens up my sorrow/and makes it bigger./I do not need/sorrow to slice/through my skin." Organized into three parts, the book is ripe for interpretation with a psychological lens. Jabair feels the acute loss of his father when "burning feelings" surface for Zahura, a mysterious girl his age who appears one day foraging in the forest. Her own trauma causes her to be fearful and flee from him, which further complicates

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